

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of the present application, as currently amended, is respectfully requested.

The specification on page 3 has been corrected as suggested by the Examiner. Similarly, the amendments on pages 7, 8, and 11-13 correct typographical errors which were found in a perusal of the specification.

With respect to claim formalities, i.e., claim 3.1 and missing claim 26, applicants have formally canceled these claims, added former claim 3.1 as new claim 47, and changed the dependency of claim 27 to claim 25. Applicants believe that this is the simplest way of correcting the numbering of claims and apologize if this numbering is inconvenient for the Examiner.

Of previously pending claims 1-3, 3.1, 4-25 and 27-46, claims 1, 3, 3.1, 4-10, and 13-25, 27-46 (using the numbering of the claims above) were rejected. Dependent claims 2, 11 and 12 were objected to but were considered allowable if amended to include all of the limitations of their base claims.

Formally, claims 9, 11 and 45 (using the numbering of the claims above) were objected to due to various informalities. These claims have been amended to correct the noted errors.

Claims 3, 47 (formerly 3.1), 6-10 and 13-25, 27-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. In claims 3 and 47, there was no antecedent support for the phrase, "said one-half of said pump frequency." As suggested by the Examiner, the applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2 so that this issue, among others, is removed. Claim 6 has been amended to read "said separator" to address the lack of antecedent support; dependent claims 7-10 are also no longer indefinite. In response to the Examiner's comments, claim 13 (and dependent claims 14-18) has been amended to remove the adjective, "first", so that the objected to term, now reads, "said separator." As suggested by the Examiner, the term, "said second separator," in claim 19 has amended to read, "each second separator." In the same claim, the phrase, "said at least one output ports of said difference frequency generators," has been amended to, "said at least one output ports of said plurality of second

separators,” to remove the indefiniteness of independent claim 19 and dependent claims 20-24. Claim 22 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion. In response to the Examiner’s objection, claim 25 has been amended to create an antecedent for “said pump frequency,” and claim 28 has been amended to correct the errant comma punctuation mark. The indefiniteness of claims 25 and 27-44 have also been removed. Likewise, claim 45 has been amended to create an antecedent for “said pump frequency,” so that claims 45 and 46 are no longer indefinite.

With respect to the substantive rejection of the claims, the undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for clarifying his rejection in a telephone interview on March 3, 2004. Claims 1, 4, 5, 25, 27, 28, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,141,138, which issued October 31, 2000 to S. Machida *et al.* In the interview, the Examiner stated that apparatus on Figs. 9 and 10 of the Machida patent were the specific referential prior art forming the basis of the rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2, which has been canceled. Hence independent claim 1 should now be allowable. Dependent claims 3-12 and 47 should be allowable for at least being dependent upon an allowable base claim. With respect to the rejection of independent claim 25, the applicants are confused since the claim recites, “...wherein one-half of said pump frequency is between two frequencies of said frequency grid,” and the Examiner stated in objecting to (but allowing) original claims 2, 11, and 12, “[t]he prior art does not disclose or reasonably suggest an optical signal converter of the type claimed, further wherein one-half of the pumping frequency is between two frequencies of the preselected output frequencies in a frequency grid.” Hence claim 25 should be allowable. Claims 27-44 should be allowable for at least being dependent upon allowable base claim 25.

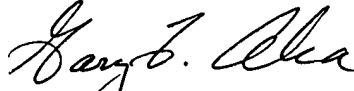
The objections to remaining independent claims 13, 19 and 45 being removed, these claims should also be allowed. Claims 14-18, 20-24 and 46 should be allowable for at least being dependent upon allowable base claims 13, 19 and 45 respectively.

Therefore, the applicants believe all the pending claims 1, 3-25 and 27-47 are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone

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conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-7687.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary T. Aka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent than the last name "Aka".

Gary T. Aka  
Reg. No. 29,038

RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP  
12930 Saratoga Ave., Suite D1  
Saratoga, CA 95070  
Tel: 408-446-8690  
Fax: 408-446-8691